

STARS AND STRIPES

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

DOD says 3rd ID still on for Sept. return

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army's 3rd Infantry Division has received conflicting messages of late, but a Pentagon official insisted Tuesday that the plan is to have everyone home from Iraq by September.

The soldiers instrumental in tackling Baghdad, some of whom have been in the region for nearly a year, have ridden an emotional roller coaster of late wondering when they'll be coming home.

"Today, it's planned for September," said Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita.

"What I'm telling you, what the combatant commander and the secretary have said is that division, right now, the intent remains to have that division home by September," Di Rita said.

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commander of the Fort Stewart, Ga., division, is not as optimistic.

The units have been ordered to stay "due to the uncertainty of the situation in Iraq and the recent increase in attacks on the coalition forces," Blount said Monday in an e-mail message to Army spouses that was obtained by Stars and Stripes. Blount said in the e-mail message that his "best guess is 60-120 days."

U.S. Central Command also weighed in Tuesday. In a statement posted on the official Web site, the command said it "remains committed to the complete return of 3rd Infantry Division to its home station by September, pending international or U.S. replacement units. As always, the security situation could affect deployments and redeployments."

Leaders know the changing news affects troop morale, Di Rita said, and are doing what they can to safeguard against that.

"The uncertainty is something that everybody tries to guard against, no question about it," Di Rita told defense reporters Tuesday. "No, I don't think anybody screwed up. I think it's a question of, as you kind of work toward a better definition of a timeline and the plans, there are going to be details that are more readily available than others."



JOHN MOORE/AP

Pfc. David Brock, 21, of the 3rd Infantry Division wipes his brow Tuesday while in his Humvee in Habaniyah, Iraq. In rear of vehicle is Sgt. Jason Kremer, 28.

Di Rita, who doubles as the Pentagon's lead spokesman and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's chief of staff, met Tuesday morning with Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, who indicated the troop presence of roughly 160,000 U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq will remain at that number for the foreseeable future.

Now it's a matter of finding ways to sustain that number with U.S. forces, or by tapping coalition and other nations who have expressed an interest in supplying troops, said Di Rita, who did not provide details.

The division's 3rd Brigade already is moving out of the country and beginning their trip home. Soldiers of the division's 1st and 2nd Brigades remain in Iraq, and, according to Di Rita, on the predetermined time line of returning home by the fall — a contrast to Blount's message.

"Gen. Blount is ... as we all are, concerned about being able to give some definition to what the families know," Di Rita explained. "Because plans are still being worked out, I think he is trying to keep everybody understanding that when we say that it lacks specific definition, it lacks specific definition for what he wants to be able to tell families. ... The details are still being worked through."

Last week, when Rumsfeld testified before Congress, he said the 2nd Brigade would be coming home by August. Di Rita says "that still could happen."

"You wanted to generally know when does this end, and right now, the end is, at the moment, the thinking remains, this division will be coming home by September," Di Rita said.

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Bremer: Departure from Iraq linked to democracy

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — For the first time, the U.S. administrator Tuesday linked the U.S. stay in Iraq to the political process, saying American forces would remain in the country until Iraqis agree on a new constitution and set up a democratic government.

American soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division, who fought the war and maintain the uneasy peace, grumbled when told they would have to stay longer.

L. Paul Bremer said the process of rebuilding the Iraqi political system was already under way with the establishment of the 25-member Governing Council — the first national postwar Iraqi political body that was largely hand-picked by him.

"The next step is the launching of a process to write a new constitution for Iraq. ... Once approved, democratic, free and fair elections can be held in Iraq for a fully sovereign Iraqi government. Then our job, the coalition's job, will be done," Bremer said.

"We have no desire to stay a day longer than necessary," he said. "The timing of how long the coalition stays here is now in the hands of the Iraqi people."

Bremer said he did not anticipate having to exercise veto power over council decisions, but asserted he was heavily involved in its proceedings. He has attended every session so far.

To even talk of removing coalition soldiers from Iraq seemed premature when guerrilla-style attacks against U.S. forces are on the increase.

A coalition military spokesman said Tuesday that U.S. forces in Iraq come under an average of 12 attacks each day. Bremer repeated the charge that hard-core Baathists, former members of the pro-government Fedayeen Saddam militia and the intelligence services were behind the attacks.

A total of 32 U.S. soldiers have been killed in attacks since May 1, when President Bush declared the end of major hostilities in Iraq. The increasing frequency and sophistication of the attacks have contributed to the decision by some countries not to contribute troops to join the United States in policing Iraq and replace its exhausted soldiers.

France on Tuesday joined India in deciding not to send troops to Iraq and an Arabic television channel, Al-Arabiya, broadcast a message Tuesday by a group calling itself "Liberating Iraq's Army," warning countries against sending troops to Iraq to serve under the U.S.-led occupation.

Also Tuesday, six American soldiers were injured, including one in critical condition, in a mortar attack on their base in Balad, a town 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Bremer, a former diplomat and counterterrorism expert, reported some progress in restoring normal life in Iraq, saying 90 percent of the country's schools and all its universities were now open.

Electricity was expected to be back to its prewar levels by the end of the month, but those levels, he warned, were 30 to 35 percent below what was needed.

Bremer blamed the country's continuing electricity shortages on an antiquated system left over from the Saddam regime and sabotage by pro-Saddam insurgents.

Conflicting news tempers families' hopes

Stars and Stripes

Wives of 3rd Infantry Division soldiers were told last week that their husbands would be arriving home from Iraq before the end of September.

Over the weekend, the rumors started. Then they got confirmation: The 3rd ID was staying put.

"The first thing I thought was, how is Sean going to handle this?" said Susana Brosseau, wife of Spc. Sean Brosseau, who works in intelligence for the division. "I mean, he's there. It's hard enough for [the spouses], but he's on the ground."

Brosseau, 28, e-mailed her husband Sunday morning; she said he was taking the latest news well.

"He was glad I knew. He was worried about telling me; we had such high hopes," she said.

Third Infantry soldiers have seen the Army back off from a tentative return date three times now, said one family member.

Jo Nagel, 49, has watched the situation intensify, hoping for the best for her 31-year-old brother, a Bradley vehicle commander, and his wife.

"Back in June, we were told possibly July. Then he was told August. It seems

like it changes month to month," Nagel said. "I got a lot of hope up when [Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld said they'd be coming home. [The news that they were not] was devastating."

President Bush declared the heavy fighting over May 1, and many families were told to prepare for homecomings in June.

Several thousand 3rd Infantry troops, including the 3rd Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., began returning last week.

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Navy experts profile most likely drug user

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. Navy's most likely drug user is a male E-3 who has been in the service for less than three years and has not qualified for a specialized warfare pin, Navy substance abuse experts said Monday.

And although the first day of a region-wide, three-day drug and alcohol abuse prevention seminar focused on who was most likely to abuse alcohol or use drugs — and what drugs they choose — an equal emphasis was placed on available prevention and education programs.

"The biggest enablers to substance abuse are that supervisors avoid the issue, that sailors have false perceptions of the consequences and that leadership is not engaged," said Bill Flannery, head of the Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Branch.

Flannery and a team of experts are at Yokosuka Naval Base this week, bringing the Navy's drug summit overseas for the first time.

Monday's program was largely an introduction to Navy-wide and local issues. Later in the week, approximately 200 participants from Navy commands in Japan, Guam, Diego Garcia and South Korea will share "best practices" on detection and prevention.

Flannery shared a litany of statistics — some encouraging, some not. Navy-wide, positive drug tests have dropped from 470 per 1,000 sailors in 1980 — to six per 1,000 tested in 2002. So far this year, that figure has dropped further to 4.6 per 1,000.

And in accordance with the Navy's professed "zero tolerance" policy on drug use, 96 percent of sailors who test positive are discharged from the service.

The remaining four percent are "command excep-

tions," in which a local command has found something wrong with the drug test or accepted proof of prescription drug use that might have created a false positive.

Positive tests for the club drug known as Ecstasy, though, jumped from 34 in 1998 to 328 in 2002, down from more than 400 in 2001.

And while drug- and alcohol-related incidents are on the decline locally, anecdotal evidence shows there is still a problem. "This is not a pleasant subject. But it is one that we do, in fact, need to talk about," said Rear Adm. Robert C. Chaplin.

"We always have the terrible examples that get everyone's attention," he said, referring to an April case in which a Sasebo-based sailor allegedly killed a Japanese woman and seriously injured her daughter in a drunken-driving incident.

"But we need to get out of the react mode and get into the pro-active mode. Leadership has got to be the ones who set the tone and get these programs in place. We have to make sure to get these programs in front of our sailors."

"Drug use has not — and will not be — tolerated. Alcohol abuse will and must be punished."

Linda Boswell, a U.S. Pacific Fleet substance abuse specialist, said drug-test positives in the Pacific Fleet dropped from 1.58 percent of those tested in fiscal 2002 to .53 percent of those tested so far in fiscal 2003.

Sailors in Japan, though, test positive more often for use of methamphetamines than the rest of the fleet. That, said a Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent, is because those drugs are more readily available and more popularly produced in Southeast Asia than in other parts of the world.

The overall message, Navy officials said, is that reducing substance abuse in the ranks is up to the servicemembers — mainly senior enlisted — that attended Monday's session.

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Suspected bin Laden aide in custody

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suspected longtime aide to Osama bin Laden has been handed over to American authorities and flown out of Pakistan, a Pakistani official said Monday.

Adil Al-Jazeera was blindfolded with his hands tied behind his back while he was taken to an American plane in Peshawar late Sunday, the intelligence official said on the condition of anonymity.

The official said he believed the al-Qaida suspect was flown to Bagram, an American air base in neighboring Afghanistan.

Pakistan officials believe Al-Jazeera, arrested in Pakistan last month, is a ranking member of bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

"He was interrogated here. He is among the important people of al-Qaida. Useful information can be obtained from him during further investigation," the official said.

Al-Jazeera, an Algerian national, was arrested in the upscale residential district of Hayatabad in Peshawar, which borders Afghanistan.

Another al-Qaida suspect, Abu Naseem of Tunisia, also was arrested near Peshawar the day Al-Jazeera was caught.

Neither Al-Jazeera nor Abu Naseem appears on the American FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list.

Nearly 500 al-Qaida suspects have been arrested in Pakistan, and most of them have been handed over to the United States.

Pakistan is a key U.S. ally in the war against terrorism.

Those captured include senior al-Qaida suspects, such as Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who was arrested in March and is believed to be the No. 3 leader in al-Qaida and a suspected planner of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

From The Associated Press

Wives

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Joyce Raezer, director of government relations for the National Military Family Association in Alexandria, Va., said the roller coaster ride of expectations has hurt many.

"This is not good. Most families down there [at Fort Stewart, Ga., home to the unit] have tried to have reasonable expectations, but it's taken its toll.

"Families aren't in as bad a shape as recent articles say, but they're not in as good a shape as we'd like," she said.

"Some are at the breaking point, and we worry about them."

Raezer said it's critical that spouses build and maintain support networks. This is obvious advice to some, but perhaps not for younger, inexperienced spouses.

Those that are coping well have "built connec-

tions in their family, with the unit, at their jobs, so they have an individual support network," Raezer said. "They take advantage of the services provided by the Army."

"They also have realistic expectations — always expect that when you're told dates, take it with a grain of salt. I tell my husband [who is military], don't tell me possibilities, tell me when you know."

Those who are struggling are prone to believe rumors, and some "are just brand new to this," Raezer said. And they believe "Oh, it's the Internet age, we'll have contact." And that hasn't happened.

Wives worry, and so do the guys on the ground, Brosseau said.

"They're exhausted. They feel that their state of mind makes things even more dangerous for them," she said. But there's hope.

"The good thing is, we pull strength from each other. When you have someone you love over there, you always have hope. As long as my husband is alive and well, I will always have hope."

News tracker: What's new with old news

Nation

Plant shooting: The girlfriend of the gunman in last week's deadly shooting spree at the Lockheed Martin plant says she has been fired from her job at the facility. Lockheed Martin spokesman Sam Grizzle confirmed Tuesday that Shirley Price was no longer an employee at the airplane parts plant, but he declined to say whether she resigned or was dismissed.

Price's boyfriend and fellow worker, Doug Williams, opened fire at the plant July 8, killing five co-workers and injuring nine others before committing suicide.

Ariz. wildfires: Hundreds of people fled their homes around the Whiteriver, Ariz., community as a wildfire nearly quadrupled in size in the mountains near the area devastated by last year's record blaze.

The 5,800-acre fire on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation hadn't destroyed any homes or other buildings by Tuesday morning, said Cam Hunter, spokeswoman for the state's Division of Emergency Management.

However, it had prompted authorities to order evacuations of part of Whiteriver and several other communities.

Branch Davidians ruling: A federal appeals court in New Orleans rejected an attempt by survivors to collect damages from the government for the deadly 1993 confrontation outside Waco, Texas, between federal agents and members of the Branch Davidian cult.

Without dissent, a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals late Monday turned aside contentions that a lower court judge who ruled against the survivors was biased.

Scores of Branch Davidian members, including leader David Koresh, were killed in 1993 when government agents stormed their compound after a weeklong standoff. Survivors had been pursuing a \$675 million wrongful death claim for years.

Ten Commandments: A federal judge ruled that La Crosse, Wis., must remove a Ten Commandments monument from a public park, saying it tried to "disguise its intent" to advance religion by selling the parcel of land to a private group.

The display still violates the separation of church and state, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb wrote in an opinion handed down Monday.

The constitutionality of the monument, installed by the Eagles Club in 1965, was challenged by the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation.

After the foundation filed its lawsuit in July 2002, the city erected a fence around the monument and sold the parcel to the Eagles Club. A municipal resolution stated the intention to keep the monument "in its present location by any and all means available."

L.A. airport shooting: The families of two people shot to death last year at Los Angeles International Airport are suing the gunman's estate and the city for more than \$85 million.

The lawsuits, filed Monday in U.S. District Court, were brought for wrongful death and terrorism against the estate of Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, 41, who fatally shot Victoria Hen and Yaakov Aminov on July 4, 2002, at the ticket counter of El Al, Israel's national airline.

Hen was an El Al employee, Aminov was a passenger. Hadayet was eventually killed by a security guard.

Federal officials have determined that Hadayet, an Egyptian immigrant, acted alone but called the attack an act of terrorism related to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

War on terrorism

Moussaoui ruling defied: The Justice Department acknowledges its defiance of a judge's order may cause dismissal of charges against accused Sept. 11, 2001, conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, but says it won't produce an al-Qaida prisoner for questioning by the defendant.

The government notified the trial judge Monday that it wouldn't budge in its refusal to let Moussaoui, an acknowledged al-Qaida loyalist, interview a former superior — suspected Sept. 11 attack coordinator Ramzi Bin alshibh.

Lynch homecoming: Former POW Jessica Lynch is expected to return home to West Virginia next week, a family spokesman said Tuesday.

Lynch is to be released July 22 from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and should arrive in Wirt County by mid-afternoon, spokesman Randy Coleman said.

Five others were captured and held apart from Lynch for three weeks before their release.

Military

Norfolk power outage: Electricity was restored by midday Tuesday to Norfolk Naval Station, about half of which had lost power because of several downed power lines at a substation.

The pier areas remained without service, although ships continued to run on their own power, said Beth Baker, a Navy spokeswoman.

The power went out about 3 a.m. Monday when seven utility poles fell, Baker said. Authorities were trying to determine what caused the poles to fall.

From wire reports

News from around the war

Maybe not quickly, but mail is moving

Getting mail to the Middle East is fairly simple. Delivering mail to one particular soldier, sailor, Marine or airman out of the 150,000 in Iraq and Kuwait can sometimes become difficult.

A recent rash of letters to Stars and Stripes from deployed servicemembers and from angry spouses trying to send mail suggests that many are frustrated with the delivery system. But downrange, for the most part, many seem satisfied with how things are working.

"I'm getting a lot of mail actually," said Sgt. Keith Woods, one of dozens of soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade guarding sites around Baghdad.

Pvt. Daniel Salas, standing nearby, added: "We get it, but it's late."

Woods and others say it takes incoming mail two weeks, on average, to arrive. Outgoing mail seems to take a little longer to get to its destination.

Two weeks is more optimistic than U.S. Central Command estimates some mail deliveries.

Delivery to soldiers in Iraq varies "from unit to unit, location to location," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nick Balice, a spokesman at CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

Getting letters, packages and even postcards to individuals scattered around Iraq is a challenge similar to the Navy's getting mail to ships at sea, Balice said.

For example, if there is room left on a plane flying out to supply a ship, "then they'll throw on some mail," he said. "And that's pretty much how it works in Iraq due to [logistical] limitations."

Doubts, attacks thwarting appeals

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Near daily guerrilla attacks and growing doubts about the basis for the war are complicating Washington's search for peacekeepers to replace exhausted American troops in Iraq.

Furthermore, prime candidates for troop contributors are themselves tied down in peacekeeping missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan, where NATO is preparing to assume command next month.

India rejected a U.S. request to send peacekeepers to Iraq. The Indians said they would consider such a deployment only under a United Nations mandate.

Germany and France have also ruled out any military role in Iraq without U.N. blessing. On Tuesday, French President Jacques Chirac told the Czech president that sending French troops to Iraq "cannot be conceived within the current framework," according to French spokeswoman Catherine Colonna.

The Bush administration has scored some success in recruiting other countries to send troops to Iraq. Poland will contribute 2,300 soldiers to a brigade that will also include units from Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Lithuania.

A second brigade will have 1,640 Ukrainians and the third 1,100 Spanish troops and units from Honduras, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador and Nicaragua.

However, the fact that the Army extended the stay

of the 3rd Infantry Division shows the need for even more troops from countries with well-trained and well-equipped military forces.

Even with a U.N. mandate, the decision to send soldiers to Iraq would require considerable political soul-searching, given the widespread opposition to the war in many countries.

Controversial statement

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey released a statement Tuesday saying it and the United States regretted the capture of 11 Turkish special forces soldiers in northern Iraq in early July. But a U.S. official said Washington still had not approved the document.

A U.S.-Turkish committee had been set up last week to investigate the surprise July 4 raid, when U.S. troops detained the Turkish soldiers in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah.

The Turks offered the Americans tea, in line with Turkish traditions, but the U.S. soldiers took the Turks prisoners, handcuffed them, hooded them and flew them to Baghdad for interrogation. They were released more than two days later.

It wasn't clear why the Turkish side released the statement before Washington's approval.

Cards have an 'Agenda'

SAN FRANCISCO — A high school teacher, fed up with the Bush administration's playing cards featuring Saddam Hussein, "Chemical Ali" and other most-wanted Iraqis, is now selling her own deck, "Operation Hidden Agenda."

Kathy Eder's 55 cards show pictures of the president, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others along with quotes, mostly from journalists, questioning the rationale for the U.S.-led war. The backs of the cards feature a 1983 photograph of Rumsfeld shaking Hussein's hand.

Eder, 42, said she decided to create her own plastic-coated propaganda in March as a comeback to the "messages of hate" contained in the cards the Department of Defense issued to help U.S. troops identify suspected war criminals.

48th FW, F-15Es deploy to CENTCOM

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — More than 300 members of the 48th Fighter Wing, along with several F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft, have deployed from RAF Lakenheath to a location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The exact location of the deployment has not been released.

The deployed troops included maintenance personnel and combat support troops. The jets are from the 494th Fighter Squadron, which will form the lead element in the 494th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

Refugees must continue to wait

GENEVA — Governments agreed Monday to delay

sending back Iraqi refugees, heeding U.N. advice that it is too early and too unsafe for them to return home, the top U.N. refugee official said.

"People accept that in the second half of this year, there should only be limited repatriation ... and that the major repatriation should be next year and 2005," said Ruud Lubbers, U.N. high commissioner for refugees.

Lubbers held the meeting at the request of European governments who have frozen all new Iraqi applications for asylum and are granting them temporary protection but don't want this to go on indefinitely.

Around 4 million Iraqis are believed to have fled during the decades of Saddam Hussein's regime, but most have settled permanently abroad. There are an estimated 262,600 Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers in industrialized countries, the vast majority of them in Europe. This is in addition to 668,500 Iraqis in neighboring countries, of whom 450,000 live in "refugee-like" situations but don't have any papers.

Cold War sirens may be revived

OKLAHOMA CITY — The wail of an outdoor siren put Kenneth Jacobs on notice that danger was approaching before tornadoes struck near his home in May.

"It was loud," said Jacobs, whose home was undamaged during two days of twisters. "It made you more on guard for what was going on."

Sirens have long been used for storm disasters, but now the Federal Emergency Management Agency is studying whether they can warn people of biological, chemical or nuclear attack.

Cities including Oklahoma City, Chicago and Dallas have upgraded their outdoor warning systems with a type of siren that can carry voice announcements — an idea officials say took on added importance in the post-Sept. 11 world.

"You have all kinds of new systems," said Timothy Putprush, a FEMA telecommunications specialist. "You originate a message. You need to get it out to the population."

Thousands of sirens were built across the country during the Cold War to warn citizens in case of nuclear attack, but the federal government stopped the program and the sirens fell silent in many of the nation's largest cities. Other cities used them to deliver tornado warnings.

But terrorism warnings emerged as a new use for the sirens after Sept. 11. The federal government is currently updating the nation's civil preparedness guide to discuss improved ways of notifying the public of emergencies, and that includes the use of sirens.

In Oklahoma City, taxpayers agreed to spend \$4.5 million several years ago to upgrade its Cold War-era warning system with 181 new sirens.

The sirens, together with news reports and special radios that emit a loud alarm in times of weather emergencies, helped prevent loss of life when tornadoes raked the Oklahoma City area on May 8 and 9. More than 300 homes were destroyed but only one person was killed, an elderly man who fell and hit his head while taking shelter.

From staff and wire reports

Bush: U.S. working overtime to prove claims Iraq has WMD

BY TERENCE HUNT

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, facing questions about his credibility, says the United States is working overtime to prove Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction before the United States invaded Iraq.

"When it's all said and done," Bush said Monday, "the people of the United States and the world will realize that Saddam Hussein had a weapons program."

Bush has been on the defensive since the administration acknowledged it could not document his State of the Union claim in January that Iraq had been trying to buy uranium in Africa to develop nuclear weapons.

That claim was based on British intelligence that had been called into question by the CIA, and the agency's director, George Tenet, has accepted responsibility for not seeking removal of the statement from Bush's speech.

Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, accused Bush of deception. "He deceived the American peo-

ple by allowing into a State of the Union speech — at a critical point when he was making the case for war with Iraq — a statement that he either knew was wrong or should have known was wrong."

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., said administration officials "should be reminded that what is at stake is not just the credibility of one man or even the credibility of the office of the president of the United States. What we place in the balance is the credibility of the United States as a nation and as leader of the free world."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., put it differently.

"There is a broader issue," he said on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday, "and that is the failed policy toward Iraq. It's a bankrupt policy, it's a policy that's adrift and the individuals paying the price are the American servicemen and women."

Bush said the United States was reviewing documents and interviewing Iraqis in an intensive effort to support the still unproven claim that Saddam had forbidden weapons.

The embarrassing episode about questionable intelligence forced the administration to concede it did not know

the source of the British claims — and, in fact, was not trying to determine the source.

"We don't know if it's true but nobody — but nobody — can say it was wrong," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said.

"That is not known."

News reports have said Italian intelligence was behind the documents that led to the claim — a charge the Italian government denies.

Rome prosecutors will now investigate whether a crime may have been committed in the case, and if anyone may be guilty.

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Tuesday that Italy "never, never gave documentation relative to this issue to other nations' intelligence services."

"This could mean many things — that there weren't documents, that the government believed that the documents shouldn't be handed over," he said. "But the fact that documents were never handed over means that anyone who said this said something untrue."

Administration officials said Bush's statement was technically correct since he was simply saying that British intelligence said something was true. In the Jan. 28 speech, Bush said, "The

British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

Anti-war advocacy groups launched a television advertising campaign accusing Bush of misleading Americans about Iraq's nuclear ambitions. The ad ends with the word "leader" superimposed on Bush's face, and then the word changes to "misleader."

But Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama said on the "Today" program that he believes the administration "has been forthright with the American people" on this issue.

"This is political season," he said. "We've got a presidential race coming up and I think you've got to look at things as what they are and look at the political reasons of people that are fighting the president now."

Defending his administration, Bush said, "I think the intelligence I get is darn good intelligence. And the speeches I have given were backed by good intelligence."

"And I am absolutely convinced today, like I was convinced when I gave the speeches, that Saddam Hussein developed a program of weapons of mass destruction and that our country made the right decision."

2nd soldier gets life for GI's murder

BY RICK SCAVETTA

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The second of two 1st Armored Division soldiers accused of killing a fellow soldier pleaded guilty Monday to murder and robbery.

Pfc. Andrew Humiston, who had initially pleaded innocent to charges of felony murder, robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and obstruction of justice, received a life sentence in prison after changing his plea.

By the end of the day, a military judge had ruled that both Humiston, 23, and Pfc. Jonathan Schroeder, 21, who pleaded guilty to the same charges on Friday, played roles in the slaying and robbery of Spc. Clint Lamebear.

"Nothing I can say will bring your son back, or dull the pain that I've caused your family," the 23-year-old Humiston said, bursting into tears before he was sentenced. "I just hope you'll accept my sincerest apology."

On the morning of Nov. 16, 2002, a German man found Lamebear dead in a Frankfurt garage.

Only hours earlier, around 3:30 a.m., Schroeder and Humiston, who are assigned to the Friedberg, Germany-based 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, the same unit as Lamebear, found the 18-year-old Navajo slumped over a bar in Sachsenhausen, Frankfurt's pub district. They carried him outside, intending at first to put him in a taxi headed toward their post about 15 miles north of Frankfurt. Lamebear was talking, but leaning on Humiston to walk, Humiston testified.

When the pair led Lamebear into a dark garage, Humiston lit a cigarette and watched Schroeder hit Lamebear, Humiston said. That evening, Schroeder had an argument with another GI over a girl. Humiston told the court, adding that he thought Lamebear was the soldier Schroeder fought earlier.

Humiston stole 5 euros, slightly more than \$5, from Lamebear's jacket, Humiston said. When Lamebear tried to flee, Humiston blocked his escape, he said.

"That's when he [Schroeder] hit him with the board," Humiston said. "I saw the last blow. It knocked [Lamebear] unconscious."

Lamebear suffered severe blows to the head and later drowned in his own blood, according to a German autopsy. Schroeder and Humiston left Lamebear lying in the dark beside a minivan.

"At that point, I just didn't think the injuries he sustained were that serious," Humiston said, adding that if he had known an ambulance was necessary he "would have done it 100 percent differently."

Humiston gave no reason for taking Lamebear's shoes and throwing them onto a nearby rooftop. He and Schroeder discarded Lamebear's wallet in the nearby Main River, he said. Humiston later burned his military identification, cut the card to pieces, and flushed it down a toilet in the barracks, Humiston said.

"I was scared," Humiston said. "I didn't want to be caught with it."

Judge (Col.) James Pohl returned and sentenced Humiston to life in prison with the eligibility for parole, reduction to the lowest military pay grade, forfeiture of all pay, and a dishonorable discharge. Under a pretrial agreement with Army prosecutors, Humiston will likely serve a maximum of 40 years.

Under military statutes, both Schroeder and Humiston are eligible for parole in 10 years.

The Army promoted Lamebear posthumously from private, first-class to specialist. Lamebear arrived in Germany just four days before his death.

Both he and Schroeder have been held at the U.S. Army jail in Mannheim and are expected to serve their sentences in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., V Corps spokeswoman Hilde Patton said.

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Jury spares life of former Navy officer in wife's disappearance

BY JULIE LEVENTHAL

The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal court jury decided Tuesday to spare the life of a former Navy intelligence officer convicted of kidnapping resulting in the death of his ex-wife.

After barely one hour of deliberations, the panel of eight women and four men instead decided Jay Lentz should spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole. The decision came one day before Lentz's 34th birthday.

Lentz stood silently as the jury's recommendation was read. His daughter,

Julia, 12, listened as she sat surrounded by relatives.

She had testified Monday to plead for her father's life.

Lentz was convicted in connection with the death of Doris Lentz, 31, who vanished April 23, 1996. Prosecutors contend Jay Lentz lured her from her Arlington home to his Fort Washington, Md., residence on the pretext of picking up Julia, then 4. The girl was actually visiting her grandparents in Indiana that day.

Doris Lentz's body has never been found, although her bloodstained car turned up in Washington, D.C.

In closing arguments of the penalty phase, Assistant U.S.

Attorney Steven Mellin called Jay

Lentz a "manipulative predator" who used the couple's daughter as a pawn.

Federal public defender Judy Clarke urged the jury to find some good in Lentz, citing his military service and his role in raising Julia since her mother vanished. Clarke urged jurors to consider Julia's life in their decision.

Lentz was convicted after an unusual break in deliberations.

Jurors worked four days before telling U.S. District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee they were deadlocked. He urged them to continue, and they returned the following day, June 24, but were still unable to decide. Lee was scheduled to begin vacation June 25, and agreed to let the panel resume deliberations July 7. When they did, jurors convicted Lentz in under an hour.

Police: Ex-Marine took girl, 12, to Paris

LONDON — A 12-year-old girl who went to Paris with a former U.S. Marine flew back to England by herself, French police said Tuesday. But British police said they don't believe the returning passenger was the missing girl.

The saga began when Shevaun Pennington left Britain on Saturday with Toby Studabaker, 31, whom she apparently met through the Internet, British police said.

French police said Shevaun stayed in Paris for only a few hours Saturday before flying to Liverpool airport and that the former Marine did not go to Liverpool with her.

A police spokesman said, "we are very, very dubious," that the S. Pennington listed on the return flight was the missing Shevaun, because the passenger was one of a group of five on a previously booked ticket.

Leo Studabaker said his brother thought the girl was at least 18.

"I honestly don't think he knew anything about her being the age that she, I guess, is," Leo Studabaker said. "He was very insistent that she was 18 or 19 years old."

Stephen Pennington said on Monday that he wasn't aware of his daughter's relationship with the American.

Studabaker joined the Marines in 2000 and served in an anti-terrorism unit in Afghanistan, said Sgt. Spencer Harris, a spokesman for Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He was discharged on June 30, Harris said.

Airman's family missing

Ramstein Air Base officials and local German authorities were searching Tuesday for an airman's wife and the couple's two daughters who were reported missing a day earlier.

Police were looking for 39-year-old Christine Staggs, her 12-year-old daughter, Vivian, and her 3-year-old daughter, Savanna.

Police were also searching for the family's 1996 green Jeep Cherokee.

Christine Staggs is the wife of a U.S. airman whose name was not released. The airman reported his family missing, said Heather Miller, a spokeswoman for the 86th Airlift Wing's public affairs office.

The Staggs family lives on the base. Christine Staggs and the two girls were last seen there Monday.

39th Wing redesignated

Air Force officials are redesignating the American unit at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to its pre-1991 status.

The changes come four months after the war ended 12 years of no-fly missions, keeping Saddam Hussein's aircraft from harassing Iraqi minorities north of the 36th parallel.

Effective Wednesday, the Air Force unit at Incirlik will change from the 39th Wing to the 39th Air Base Group. That's one level below a wing under the Air Force's organizational structure.

The change in designation is not the harbinger of a drastic drawdown, or changes related to the expected restructuring of forces under the Stuttgart, Germany-based U.S. European Command, said Lt. Col. Toni Kemper, Air Force spokeswoman at Incirlik.

Okinawa demands apology in rape case

NAHA, Okinawa — Government officials here Monday demanded a Marine lance corporal indicted last week on a rape charge make a formal apology to the community and the alleged victim.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly also adopted resolutions calling for the U.S. military to maintain a tight rein on servicemembers stationed on Okinawa and renewed its call for a revision of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

Marine officials had nothing new to say Monday concerning the case.

Lance Cpl. Jose W. Torres, 21, assigned to Camp Hansen, is in the Naha Detention Center awaiting trial on a charge of rape involving injuries.

Kadena airmen arrested for trespassing

OKINAWA CITY, Okinawa — Three Kadena airmen arrested Sunday for trespassing were expected to be released Monday afternoon according to an Okinawa prefectural Police spokesman in Okinawa City.

The Air Force members — two airmen first class and an airman — were arrested early Sunday morning after parking a car at a garage of a private home in the Nakanomachi district near the air base, according to the spokesman.

"It was the third time that the resident spotted them parking their car in his garage," the spokesman said.

In an unrelated incident, a Marine arrested on vandalism charges early Saturday was released from police custody later that day, after paying \$86.95 in damages, a police spokesman in Naha said.

The 23-year-old Marine, who had been drinking, was arrested after he broke a mirror of a taxi parked on Kokusai Street in Naha at 1 a.m., the spokesman said.

Cadet asks to resign from AF Academy

DENVER — The first cadet to face a court-martial on rape charges since a sex scandal erupted at the Air Force Academy wants to resign from the military rather than stand trial, his attorney said Tuesday.

Capt. Michael Freimann, attorney for sophomore Douglas Meester, 20, said he submitted the request last week.

The request, first reported by the Gazette of Colorado Springs, would have to be approved by Air Force Secretary James Roche.

Freimann said the decision could take months. No date had been set for the court-martial, which is now on hold, he said.

Meester, who is on leave from the academy, is accused of raping a freshman cadet Oct. 18 in his dormitory room. Both he and the alleged victim had been drinking alcohol.

Civilian authorities could still pursue rape charges against Meester if the resignation is granted.

Dyess: Ten of 12 people don't have SARS

ABILENE, Texas — Another person linked to Dyess Air Force Base is has been quarantined for possible exposure to SARS, raising the number of base personnel and relatives who are quarantined to 12.

But initial test results from 10 of the 12 have come back negative for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, said Lt. Saje Park, a base spokeswoman. Test results for the other two people are expected in a few days, she said.

Grand jury indicts 44 for using false IDs

DENVER — A federal grand jury indicted 44 people Tuesday for allegedly using fake green cards and other false identification to work as contract employees at the Air Force Academy.

The workers included construction staff and others hired by civilian contractors, said Jeff Dorschner, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office. Twenty-seven people were arrested Tuesday.

The workers were caught as part of increased security after the Sept. 11 attacks.

From staff and wire reports

Handyman sentenced to 18 years in prison

BY WILLIAM KATES
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A judge told a retired handyman that he "should die in prison" for keeping five women as sex slaves in a back yard underground bunker as the man was sentenced Tuesday to 18 years to life in prison.

Onondaga County Judge Anthony Aloï ignored a plea for leniency from John Jamelske's lawyer, who asked for a penalty of 15 years to life.

"You are a sick coward. You are an evil man. You are a kidnapper and rapist, a master manipulator of people and the truth, but your reign of terror is over," Aloï told Jamelske.

Jamelske cried in court and apologized. "I'm sorry for what I did and how it affected everyone. God bless all of them."

Jamelske, 68, pleaded guilty last month to kidnapping five women and girls and holding them as sex slaves between 1988 and 2003 in a concrete bunker he built 3 feet underground behind his home.

"There is no doubt in my mind that you should die in prison for what you have done to these five women," Aloï said.

None of the victims appeared in court to see Jamelske be sentenced, although several of their family members and friends attended.

Prosecutors read excerpts from the impact statements each of the victims submitted to the court. The letters urged Aloï to put Jamelske away for the rest of his life as the victims talked about the emotional and psychological scars that they and their families have endured.

The last victim, a teenager who eventually escaped and turned Jamelske in, said she almost gave up hope as she was raped daily.

"You are the sickest man I've ever known. Every time you came to that door, I wanted to kill you," she wrote.

"Please lock him up and never allow him to perpetrate on any young, innocent girls again. He is an old, sick man, and he is never going to change. I hope you die in the cold, cement cell, like you wanted us to do," she said.

Jamelske told authorities he began seeking out girls and women in 1988 after his wife became bedridden with cancer and was unable to satisfy his sexual urges. His wife died in 1999.

Jamelske was arrested in April when his most recent victim, a 16-year-old girl, was able to sneak a phone call to her sister when Jamelske took her out on errands after six months of captivity.

After Jamelske's arrest, police identified four other women who said they were abducted and raped by him dating back to 1988. The victims ranged in age from 13 to 53 and were held captive anywhere from two months to three years in the bunker.

All the victims were released alive, a point that defense attorney J. Michael Forsyth asked Aloï to consider in rendering his sentence. Forsyth also said Jamelske's age made it unlikely that he would be a threat to anyone if released after 15 years.

Forsyth also noted that Jamelske has taken full responsibility for his actions, agreeing to spare his victims the ordeal of testifying at a trial by pleading

guilty and agreeing to pay them compensation.

Before Forsyth's appeal, District Attorney William Fitzpatrick urged Aloï to stick to the longer sentence.

"The irony is that the cell he will live in for the next 18 years, and probably for the rest of his natural life, is far more adequate, will be far more comfortable, will have far more creature comforts than the hell hole in which he kept his victims," Fitzpatrick said.

The victims have said that Jamelske made them keep diaries detailing their sexual encounters, had them do senseless tasks and tricked them into believing others were involved, that they would be sold as slaves on the Internet and they had no chance of escape.

The bunker — which will be demolished next month — consists of two rooms 12-feet-by-12-feet with 7-foot ceilings. It was accessible only through a four-foot-square steel door in the basement wall.

The rooms contained a refrigerator, a small tub, a portable hospital toilet chair and a bucket and a foam mattress stacked on a piece of plywood and bread crates that served as a bed.

\$455B federal deficit projected

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration projected Tuesday that the federal deficit will climb to a record \$455 billion this year and surge to \$475 billion in 2004, underscoring the toll that recession, tax cuts and the fight against terror is taking on the government's books.

The White House estimated that the red ink will begin to ease after that, dipping to \$213 billion in 2007. The deficit will bump upward again to \$226 billion in 2008, according to the figures, which were obtained by The Associated Press.

The numbers accentuate that though the White House expects the huge shortfalls to begin to decline, they remain a long-term concern — especially with the huge baby boom population ready to start retiring later this decade.

Police search for clues in assault

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Authorities pored over grainy surveillance tape showing a man accused of assaulting an 11-year-old girl in a busy store and searched for possible links to a similar incident a day earlier in Kentucky.

Portions of Saturday's alleged assault were photographed by a video camera at a Target store in suburban Charleston.

Police Lt. H.S. Leishman said the man began stalking the girl in the toy department as her mother was shopping in another area.

Posing as a security guard, he told her he saw her steal something and ordered her to follow him.

Then he pulled a knife and forced her into the garden department, where he assaulted her. When too many shoppers walked into the area, he led her into the men's clothing department, where he assaulted her again, Leishman said.

The man is described as a white male of average height in his 30s.

Police have been talking with investigators looking into an incident Friday at a Wal-Mart in Ashland, Ky., about 60 miles west, Detective J.D. Gray said. Authorities are uncertain if the cases are linked.

4 dead in tow truck accident

SAN FRANCISCO — A tow truck went off an overpass, fell 30 to 40 feet to the highway below and smashed an SUV, killing four people, authorities said.

The truck was driving on a ramp that runs alongside northbound Highway 280 when it flipped over the guardrail Monday afternoon, officials said. The truck slid across all the northbound lanes and went through another guardrail before it fell, crushing both vehicles.

"It's one of those freak accidents," said Neville Gittens, spokesman for the San Francisco Police Department.

Former President Ford turns 90

Gerald Ford turned 90 on Monday and said he hopes to be remembered for restoring honesty and integrity to the American presidency.

Ford joins John Adams, Herbert Hoover and Ronald Reagan as the only former presidents to become nonagenarians.

"I hope and trust historians 50 years from now will say President Ford restored integrity and honesty in the White House and say he solved the problems in Vietnam, the Watergate mess and the economy," he said.

President Nixon selected Ford as vice president in 1973 after Spiro Agnew's resignation amid tax charges. He became president Aug. 9, 1974, after the Watergate scandal forced Nixon from office.

Ford pardoned Nixon shortly after assuming the presidency, prompting criticism that dogged him as he sought election in 1976 and he lost to Jimmy Carter. He insists he acted properly.

Boy convicted in death of brother

GREENSBURG, Pa. — A 15-year-old boy was convicted of third-degree murder Monday for allegedly beating his brother to death with a claw hammer.

A jury found Ian Bishop guilty in the 2002 death of 18-year-old Adam Bishop, also convicting him of conspiracy to commit murder. He faces up to 40 years in prison on each charge.

Prosecutors argued that Ian Bishop, then 14, killed his brother because he often sided with his parents in disciplining Ian. Prosecutors also suggested Ian disliked his brother because he thought the older sibling was gay.

The defense contended Ian Bishop was acting in self-defense during a fight.

Suspicious powder found in letters

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A postal worker found white powder in about 20 letters addressed to members of Congress early Tuesday, leading firefighters to seal off part of the city's main post office.

The powder was being tested by the Leon County Health Department to see if it was anthrax or another hazardous material, fire department officials said. Test results weren't expected for two or three days.

Galveston weathers Claudette

GALVESTON, Texas — Galveston officials said the coastal city survived Hurricane Claudette with street flooding and some wind damage.

The main task as the storm blew through on Tuesday was to get high-water vehicles to the west end of Galveston Island and to Bolivar Peninsula east of the city where some people may have been isolated by high water, spokesman John Simsen said.

Two military trucks and National Guard troops were dispatched to the west end of the island late Tuesday morning and four trucks were being dispatched to the Bolivar Peninsula to take in food and water or help people out.

At midday Tuesday, the main road to the west end of the island, Farm Road 3005, remained flooded and impassable for about a two-mile stretch. Other sections remained clogged with debris washed ashore or dumped by high winds.

Public Works Director Brandon Wade also warned residents that numerous snakes were spotted along roadways.

County authorities were doing damage assessments although initial reports indicated significant erosion, damage to beach homes and vehicles under water, particularly on the island's west end.

The city council was considering an emergency declaration, which would be needed if federal assistance was sought.

Phony pharmacist pleads guilty

BOSTON — An Acushnet man pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to working as a pharmacist without a license for 19 years.

Dennis A. Desrosiers, 44, had been charged with furnishing false information in records required for the Controlled Substances Act, which helps regulate drug distribution, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Desrosiers allegedly pretended to be a licensed pharmacist in Massachusetts while working at Falmouth Hospital from 1982 to 2001.

He had a degree in pharmacy, but had never passed the pharmacy examination or been licensed as a pharmacist, prosecutors said.

When hospital officials determined in 2001 that his license was fake, they fired him.

Clintons want money for bills

WASHINGTON — The federal government does not have to pay for the bulk of former President Bill Clinton's and his wife's legal fees arising out of the White-water independent counsel investigation, an appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The Clintons had sought reimbursement for more than \$3.5 million in lawyer costs stemming from the long-running probe of the failed Arkansas land deal.

But a federal appeals panel issued a 14-page decision ruling the Clintons would have been investigated with or without the appointment of an independent counsel, and therefore should pay the overwhelming majority of those legal costs.

The federal government will pay the Clintons for \$85,312.01 in legal fees for their lawyers' review and response to the counsel's final report, the judges ruled.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., did not immediately return a call for comment. Her most recent financial disclosure forms show the couple owed between \$1.7 million and \$6.5 million in outstanding legal bills.

Coach admits having sex with teens

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — A woman accused of having sex with teenage boys she coached in a lacrosse league pleaded guilty Monday to more than 60 counts of sexual assault, corruption of minors and related charges.

Elisa Fritter, 39, admitted to having a sexual relationship with two boys, ages 15 and 16, said her lawyer, Jack McMahon. She also admitted providing alcohol to about 15 minors at a party, he said.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of hundreds of years.

McMahon said he would seek probation. Prosecutors have not said what sentence they are seeking.

From wire reports

Missing Israeli cab driver

JERUSALEM — A top Palestinian official said Monday that Palestinian police will do all they can to free an Israeli taxi driver feared kidnapped by militants, and Palestinian prisoners in Israel called for the missing man's release.

The disappearance of 61-year-old Eliyahu Goral has stoked Israeli fears that a unilateral truce by the Palestinians could break down because of rogue operations by Palestinian groups, forcing Israeli retaliation. The June 29 truce declaration has brought two weeks of relative calm.

In London, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was rebuffed by Britain in his calls to boycott longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom Israel and the United States accuse of fomenting terrorism.

"We will continue to have dealings with [Arafat] as long as we judge it to be useful," a British official said after Sharon met with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

Israel imposed a curfew on the West Bank town of Ramallah. Goral's cab was found abandoned and idling in an Arab section of Jerusalem on Friday.

Palestinian leaders took pains to show they are cooperating with Israel to solve his disappearance.

"President Arafat has instructed all Palestinian security forces to search for this driver and to get him and to give him back if he is in our areas," Erekat said.

Although no group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Goral, Israeli officials fear he was abducted by militants looking for a prisoner swap.

Bounty hunters under fire

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — For the second straight week, bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman failed to show up in the Mexican court where he is being tried on charges of snatching cosmetics heir Andrew Luster.

Prosecutors say they're just waiting until the judge gives the go-ahead, and then they'll put out an all-points request to Interpol — and possibly an extradition request to the United States — for Chapman, his son Leland and brother Timothy.

But the judge presiding over the case has yet to declare Chapman in violation of his bail, one of whose conditions was that he remain in Mexico and check at the courthouse each Monday.

Chapman hasn't done either. Since his release on bail June 23, Chapman returned to California in late June, and then flew home to Hawaii on Friday. He has suggested he won't return to Mexico, citing fears of possible reprisals and mistreatment.

Judge Jose de Jesus Pineda said last week that the three — all of whom are charged with criminal association and deprivation of liberty, counts that can carry up to eight years in prison — had to show up.

Later, he said really didn't need to see them in his courtroom quite yet. On Tuesday, the judge said he could not make any public comment on the case.

From wire reports

Bush: U.S. involvement in Liberia would be limited

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan made his strongest pitch yet to President Bush for American peacekeeping troops in Liberia, but Bush is deferring his decision until he gathers more information.

Bush said Monday that any deployment of American troops to Liberia would be limited in size and duration and would depend on Liberian President Charles Taylor stepping down and leaving the country.

Bush gave no indication he was close to a decision, and aides said they didn't expect one this week. He offered no hint of whether any U.S. contingent would comprise military advisers, humanitarian experts or soldiers.

The president's comments came after meeting at the White House with Annan, who appealed for help in bringing peace to Liberia.

Asked whether United Nations or U.S. involvement is necessary, Annan said, "I think for us to pacify Liberia, both will be necessary."

The president said he was awaiting reports from two teams he sent to assess the situation in Liberia, one reviewing the humanitarian needs there, the other the military situation.

"I think everybody understands, any commitment we have would be limited in size and limited in tenure," Bush said.

"It may require troops. We don't know how many yet," Bush said after meeting with Annan. "Therefore, it's hard for me to make a determination until I see all the facts."

Bush said he had pressed advisers in a meeting of the National Security Council on when the assessment teams would report.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, said it had sent aircraft to neighboring countries in case members of the Liberia assessment team need to be evacuated. Three helicopters were sent to Sierra Leone and one MC-130 special operations transport plane was sent to Senegal, according to Navy Lt. Dan Hetlage, a Pentagon spokesman.

There are about 100 U.S. troops with the four aircraft, he said.

The Pentagon had previously arranged for commercial aircraft to stand by in case an evacuation was required but they became unavailable this week, so the military planes were sent, Hetlage said.

Annan said he expected the Economic Community of West African States to send up to 2,500 troops.

"After that, from what I gather, President Taylor will leave Liberia, then the force will be strengthened, hopefully with U.S. participation and additional troops from the West African region," Annan said.

Eventually, U.N. forces would supplant the initial forces, he said.

Rebels' reaction

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberian rebel and government leaders pleaded again for U.S. military intervention in this war-ravaged west African nation, with rebel leaders saying the presence of American troops would signal "an end to the war."

The appeals came as the Liberian defense minister repeated accusations Tuesday that rebel forces had violated a fragile cease-fire by instigating battles in northern parts of the country and as U.S. military advisers planned to evaluate water and sewage lines in the capital destroyed in the fighting.

Defense Minister Daniel Chea, who has just returned from the north said he told government forces only to attack when provoked.

"We have instructed our forces to be in a defensive structure," Chea said.

But Eugene Wilson, a spokesman for the rebel Movement for Democracy in Liberia said his troops have not violated the June 17 cease-fire.

"Since we signed the cease-fire we haven't released one bullet," Wilson said from nearby Ghana where he was attending peace talks.

From The Associated Press

Bush and Annan also discussed post-war Iraq and the search for peace in the Mideast, and efforts to battle poverty and AIDS around the world.

It was the first meeting between Bush and Annan since Dec. 20, and since a divisive U.N. debate over a resolution — ultimately withdrawn — backing a U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein's Iraqi government.

Former SecDef: U.S. 'losing control' of N. Korea situation

The Washington Post

Former defense secretary William Perry warned that the United States and North Korea are drifting toward war, perhaps as early as this year, in an increasingly dangerous standoff that also could result in terrorists being able to purchase a North Korean nuclear device and plant it in a U.S. city.

"I think we are losing control" of the situation, said Perry, who believes North Korea soon will have enough nuclear warheads to begin exploding them in tests and exporting them to terrorists and other U.S. adversaries. "The nuclear program now underway in North Korea poses an imminent danger of nuclear weapons being detonated in American cities," he said in an interview.

Perry added that he reached his conclusions after extensive conversations with senior Bush administration officials, South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun and senior officials in China.

After weeks of debate, President Bush and his senior foreign policy advisers this week are expected to meet to resolve the administration's next step in the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs. Officials have discussed how sharply to ratchet up the pressure, and

No proof of N. Korea nukes, S. Korea says

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea said Monday that there is no proof that North Korea has completed a key step toward the production of nuclear weapons, although the North reportedly claimed that it has.

The statement by Yoon Young-kwan, South Korea's foreign minister, was the latest in a series of conflicting reports on North Korea's nuclear activities. The communist nation expelled international inspectors in December, and the United States relies mainly on satellite images for clues about what is going on at its nuclear facilities.

"No scientific data or evidence has emerged to prove that North Korea started reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods at full scale or has completed the process," Yoon said in an interview with CBS radio in Seoul.

Yoon said South Korea and the United States were cooperating on efforts to obtain information about North Korea's nuclear activities.

From The Associated Press

how to react to a series of possible North Korean provocations, including nuclear tests.

As President Clinton's defense secretary, he oversaw preparation for airstrikes on North Korean nuclear facilities in 1994, an attack that was never carried out. He has remained deeply involved in Korean policy issues and is widely respected in national security circles, especially among senior military officers. They credit him with playing a

key role in developing the U.S. high-tech arsenal of cruise missiles and stealth aircraft and also with righting the Pentagon after the short, turbulent term of Les Aspin, Clinton's first defense chief.

Only last winter Perry publicly argued that the North Korea problem was controllable. Now, he said, he has grown to doubt that. "It was manageable six months ago if we did the right things," he said. "But we haven't done the right things."

Banderas plays Villa

Antonio Banderas got to spend more time in one of his favorite places while playing Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa in a new HBO movie.

The Spanish actor filmed "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself" on location in Mexico.

"It became what was my second country because I've done six movies in Mexico and I suppose that I'm going to go back to Mexico more because now we are planning to do a sequel for 'Zorro,'" Banderas told the Television Critics Association recently.

"I feel very comfortable there, but I never actually portrayed a character like this, who's got a historic link with the place. I felt a certain responsibility because I know that Pancho Villa awakes very much different feelings in the Mexican population, and outside of Mexico, too," he said.

The HBO movie tells the story of how movie giants D.W. Griffith and Harry Aitken bought the exclusive

Faces 'n' places

rights to film Villa's Mexican revolution to create Hollywood's first action movie.

Prince honors U.S. hero

Britain's Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, is coming to Uniontown, Pa., this fall to honor George C. Marshall, the World War II general, diplomat and city's most famous son.

Prince Andrew will unveil a plaque dedicating the George C. Marshall Memorial Plaza on Oct. 26 in Fayette County. Marshall was born in Uniontown in 1880 and lived there until attending Virginia Military Academy. He's perhaps best known for his plan to rebuild Europe after World War II.

Pricing TV viewers

The economics of television advertising discriminate against black-oriented shows and those who work on them, says actor-comedian Steve Harvey.

Advertisers pay less for such programs even when the ratings equal or exceed those of other shows, Harvey told a meeting of the Television Critics Association on Sunday.

The result is, "African-Americans don't get to make what they deserve to make when they have a hit show," Harvey said, appearing before TV critics to promote his WB fall series, "Steve Harvey's Big Time."

Advertisers pay lower rates for programs that attract black audiences because they reason that blacks are among TV's more loyal customers, and it's easy to reach them across the TV dial, Harvey said.

From wire services

Angels' Anderson takes Home Run Derby

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Garret Anderson was an unlikely winner of the All-Star Home Run Derby. Then again, most of the Anaheim Angels' recent accomplishments have been surprises.

"I don't look at myself as a home-run hitter, but I know I'm capable of hitting some balls out of the park, and it's just another platform to go out and show America what I can do," Anderson said after edging the St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols 9-8 Monday night to win the title for the first time.

Tino Martinez, then with the New York Yankees, was the only other player from a defending World Series champion to win the derby, accomplishing the feat in 1997 at Cleveland's Jacobs Field.

Some of the drama was lacking this year.

Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa

were not among the eight players in the competition, which has become a highlight of the All-Star break.

And U.S. Cellular Field, which used to be known as Comiskey Park, is among the most boring ballparks in baseball, with no natural targets such as the warehouse at Baltimore's Camden Yards or the Green Monster at Boston's Fenway Park.

Still, the crowd of 47,819 rose to its feet as Pujols, batting last, came up with one strike left. He stepped out and lined a pitch from Cubs bullpen catcher Benny Cadahia off the left-field warning track.

Pujols, the 2001 NL Rookie of the Year, started slowly. He hit just four homers in the first round, which tied him for third with Jim Edmonds and Gary Sheffield, and trailing defending champion Jason Giambi (12) and Anderson (seven). Pujols advanced to the final four over Sheffield because he has more regular-season homers, 27-22.

"That's a lot of swings. I was getting stiff between the rounds," said Pujols, who leads the majors with a .368 average.

Anderson hit five in a row off Dave Valle in the finals, one shy of streaks by Pujols and Giambi.

In the semis, Anderson beat Edmonds 6-4 and Pujols defeated Giambi 14-11, hitting the longest shot of the night — a 478-foot drive.

Pujols' total tied for the most in a derby round, a mark set by Giambi two years ago at Seattle, and his 26 on the night tied the record Sosa set in 2000.

Giambi, down to his last two outs in the semis, hit seven more homers to make it close as fans pulled for him to slug his way into the final.

"You get the adrenaline flowing when you start hearing them, when you put a few together, and it gets exciting," Giambi said.

Anderson's three-run double off San Francisco's Livan Hernandez put Anaheim ahead 4-1 in Game 7 as the Angels won last year's World Series.

Anderson said he wasn't capable of "tape-measure shots, like Sammy and Jason and Albert."

"They were putting on tremendous shows," Anderson said. "I kind of liken myself to Rafael Palmeiro, a guy that hit a lot of home runs but doesn't hit the ball 500 feet every time he does it."

Anderson, hitting .316 with 22 homers and 78 RBIs this season, is making his second All-Star appearance. His career home-run high is 35, set in 2000.

"That swing that I was using tonight is not a swing that I try to use during the season," he said. "It was just strictly for trying to hit balls over the fence."

After lining a ball into left field for his final out in the semifinals, Giambi walked over to Pujols, exchanged hand slaps, and the pair gave each other an extended hug.

Sheffield, Carlos Delgado (two), Richie Sexson (one) and Bret Boone (none) also were eliminated in the first round, with Boone becoming the first player not to hit any since Anaheim's Troy Glaus two years ago.

Armstrong still in lead despite protesters' roadblock

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France — Lance Armstrong kept his overall lead in the Tour de France on a sweltering day despite losing time after being stuck in a pack of riders blocked by street protesters.

Armstrong finished Tuesday's 10th stage in a group that completed the 136-mile ride more than 20 minutes behind Denmark's Jakob Piil, a Team CSC rider who won a Tour stage for the first time.

All of Armstrong's key rivals were in the main pack with him, meaning they did not gain time on the Texan, who is trying to tie Miguel Indurain's record of five straight Tour titles.

Armstrong, wearing the leader's yellow jersey, finished in 45th place — 21

minutes, 23 seconds behind Piil — on a day when organizers said temperatures soared to 104 degrees along the route.

"It's definitely the hottest Tour that most of us can remember," Armstrong said. "We've always had hot days but never so many in a row."

Alexandre Vinokourov, a Kazak rider for Team Telekom, remains second overall, 21 seconds behind Armstrong. Spain's Iban Mayo, an Euskaltel-Euskadi rider, is third overall, 62 seconds back. Tyler Hamilton, a U.S. rider and former Armstrong teammate, is fifth overall.

Finishing in the same time as Armstrong on Tuesday were Vinokourov (53rd place), Mayo (42nd), 1997 winner Jan Ullrich (34th) and Hamilton (36th).

On Wednesday, riders get a rest day, and Armstrong said he probably will take a "big nap." Racing resumes

Thursday with a 95.2-mile stage from Narbonne to Toulouse. Friday is a time trial.

"It may be the most important time trial I've ever done in the Tour," Armstrong said.

After three grueling days in the Alps, the main pack appeared happy to take it easy during this stage. The riders led a breakaway group — no threat to the overall leaders — get far ahead.

Piil was among that breakaway group. The nine riders surged ahead just 9.9 miles into the race and stayed that way for more than 124 miles, the longest breakaway so far in this Tour.

Piil beat Italian rider Fabio Sacchi of the Saeco team in a final sprint to the finish at Marseille. Bram de Groot of the Netherlands, with the Rabobank team, was third.

"I've been chasing a stage victory on the Tour for two years now," Piil said. "I finally have it. I'm very happy."

The protest forced riders to stop after supporters of radical farmer Jose Bove ran into the road and blocked cyclists near Pourrières, about 91 miles into the race.

Tour officials immediately ruled the protest was a "normal race incident," meaning riders would have to suffer the penalties of being caught in the protest. However, Armstrong's main rivals got caught in the pack as well, so his overall lead was not affected.

In all, the main pack lost about 90 seconds, organizers said.

A day earlier on Bastille Day, away from the Tour, police arrested six protesters, including three carrying banners in support of Bove. He was jailed last month for destroying genetically modified crops and served about six weeks in jail last year for ransacking a McDonald's restaurant construction site.

Former Cowboys president Schramm dies; innovator left mark on NFL

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Tex Schramm, the innovative showman who helped build the Dallas Cowboys into "America's Team" and was instrumental in the NFL's evolution and popularity, died Tuesday.

He was 83.

Schramm's son-in-law, Greg Court, told The Associated Press that the former Cowboys president and general manager died at his Dallas home.

"The NFL family has lost one of its giants," NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said in a statement. "Tex Schramm was one of the visionary leaders in sports history — a thinker, doer, innovator and winner with few equals."

Schramm hired Tom Landry as the Cowboys' first coach and was with the team for the first 29 seasons. He left in 1989, two months after Jerry Jones bought the club and fired Landry, and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame two years later.

Without playing a down, Schramm did as much as anyone to shape today's NFL.

"He played a major role in building the NFL into America's passion by developing a glamour franchise with national appeal and by his leadership on so many league issues," Tagliabue said.

Instant replay, sideline radios in quar-

terback helmets and starting the play clock immediately after the previous play were his ideas. So were wrinkles such as wide sideline borders and wind-direction strips dangling atop goalpost uprights.

He also promoted the six-division, wild-card playoff concept and introduced the world to the Cowboys cheerleaders. The nickname "America's Team" wasn't originally his, but he was the one who popularized it.

"Tex was the ultimate football-minded man," said Hall of Famer Bob Lilly the team's first draft pick. "He loved the game and he had a flair about him of show business."

But for 12 years, Schramm remained the Cowboys' only Hall of Famer not to be inducted into the club's Ring of Honor because of a strained relationship with Jones.

In April, Jones decided the man who created the Ring should be in it. Schramm, who brought the first 11 inductees to the Cowboys, was going to become the 12th member this fall.

"I never gave up hope," he said at a news conference announcing his selection, his eyes filling with tears. "Things that should happen to people that deserve them, usually do happen."

A strong personality with an imaginative football mind, Schramm had a protective love of the NFL.

Schramm was a significant force in the AFL-NFL merger in 1966 and was the original chairman of the league's

competition committee, a position he held from 1966-88. His first committee members were Vince Lombardi, Paul Brown and Al Davis.

"He was a competitor and loved to argue, but he had a lot of class and you always knew he was trying to do what was best for the NFL," Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, said in a statement.

Before being hired by Cowboys founder Clint Murchison in 1960 to run the expansion team, Schramm worked for the Los Angeles Rams from 1947-56. He worked his way up from publicity director to general manager, then became an executive for CBS-TV Sports.

While with the Rams, he gave eventual NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle his first job in the league — as the team's publicity director.

With CBS, Schramm learned the intricacies of wedding football and television, a marriage that has brought the league billions of dollars. He orchestrated the first TV broadcast of the Winter Olympics, and hired Pat Summerall to broadcast New York Giants football games.

Schramm was 39 when Murchison, a prominent Texas oilman, hired him to start an expansion team that had yet to be approved by the NFL.

Among his first hires was Landry. Although opposite personalities, their "business relationship" — as Schramm called it — produced 20 straight winning seasons, 18 playoff appearances,

13 division titles and five Super Bowl appearances.

Dallas didn't win a game its first season, then when high hopes fizzled in 1963, there were rumblings that a coaching change was needed. Schramm got Landry a 10-year contract instead.

The Cowboys went on to win division titles in 1966 and '67, leading to memorable playoff losses to the Green Bay Packers, including the Ice Bowl. They finally won Super Bowls after the 1971 and 1977 seasons.

When the tide turned in the 1980s, owner Bum Bright wanted Landry fired. Schramm refused.

Schramm was with Jones when Landry was fired in February 1989, but two months later he announced his resignation at the same meeting during which the sale of the team was approved. A rift developed between Schramm and the Cowboys' new organization, until he dined with Jones in March.

Schramm's marketing genius helped turn the Cowboys into one of the world's most-recognized teams.

An early success was in 1966, when he volunteered to host a second NFL game on Thanksgiving Day. Dallas played Cleveland in the Cotton Bowl that Thursday, drawing the largest crowd in franchise history (80,259).

In 1972, Schramm decided to entertain fans with professional dancers rather than high school cheerleaders. The seven-member squad forever changed the sidelines.

Dodgers deal for offensive help

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — At age 44, Rickey Henderson wanted one more shot at playing in the big leagues.

He got it Monday. Henderson, baseball's career leader in runs, stolen bases and walks, signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers after an outstanding 56-game stint for the New York Yankees of the independent Atlantic League.

A certain Hall of Famer when his playing days finally end, Henderson will appear in his 25th major league season for his ninth team.

Desperate for offensive help after losing 15 of their last 20 games, the Dodgers also acquired power-hitting outfielder Jeromy Burnitz from the New York Mets for three minor leaguers — second baseman Victor Diaz and right-handed relievers Joselo Diaz and Kole Strayhorn.

The Mets will also pay part of Burnitz's remaining salary this season.

"We really like these two guys," Dodgers General Manager Dan Evans

said of Henderson and Burnitz. "I think these two guys can come in and improve our ballclub. We're not asking either one to do more than they're capable of doing."

The 34-year-old Burnitz, who has played all three outfield positions, figures to replace Brian Jordan in left. Jordan underwent season-ending knee surgery last week.

"Jeromy's offensive output throughout his career speaks for itself," Evans said. "I believe he will complement our offense well and add some power to the middle of our order."

Henderson figures to be used mainly in a reserve role.

"With Rickey, we're gaining a player who understands what it takes to win at the major league level and we feel he will be a valuable addition to our team," Evans said.

Henderson has 3,040 hits, more than any active player, 2,288 runs, 1,403 steals and 2,179 walks. At Newark, he hit .339 with eight homers, 33 RBIs, 52 runs and nine stolen bases. The 10-time major league All-Star was recently named MVP of the Atlantic League All-Star Game.

The Dodgers (49-44) are in third place

in the NL West, 7½ games behind first-place San Francisco, despite a 3.06 team ERA — almost a half-run lower than any other big league team. But they're last in the NL with a .244 batting average and 328 runs, and their 59 homers are the fewest in the majors.

In addition to Jordan, first baseman Fred McGriff and center fielder Dave Roberts are on the disabled list.

"I'm just very excited to have an opportunity to play on a team with a shot at going to the playoffs," said Burnitz, who lives in nearby Poway.

Eligible for free agency after this season, Burnitz had the right to block the deal because of a no-trade provision in his contract. Because of the trade, he gets \$500,000 besides his \$11.5 million salary.

Jim Duquette, New York's interim general manager, said the Mets will pay the \$500,000 and the Dodgers will pick up \$2 million of Burnitz's salary.

The left-handed-hitting Burnitz is batting .274 with 18 doubles, 18 homers and 45 RBIs in 234 at-bats. He broke a bone in his left hand April 22 when he was hit by a pitch from Houston closer Billy Wagner and was sidelined until May 23.

Burnitz began his career with the Mets in 1993. He was traded to Cleveland and later played with Milwaukee before returning to New York last season. But he had an awful year, hitting .215 with 19 homers and 54 RBIs in 154 games.

Before that, he had five fine seasons with the Brewers. His best year was 1998, when he hit .263 with 38 homers and 125 RBIs. He has 225 homers and 703 RBIs in his career.

"Last year, I went through the worst year I've ever had as an everyday player," he said. "The difference is now, I have a simple approach, which is to get a good pitch and put a good swing on it."

The Mets, last in the NL East with a 40-53 record, began to rebuild on July 1 when they dealt second baseman Roberto Alomar to the Chicago White Sox, also for three prospects.

Victor Diaz, a 22-year-old second baseman, was hitting .291 with 10 homers and 54 RBIs at Double-A Jacksonville. Joselo Diaz, 23, went 6-2 with a 3.12 ERA in 69⅓ innings for Class-A Vero Beach and was recently promoted to Jacksonville. Strayhorn, 20, was 5-2 with seven saves and a 2.93 ERA in 30 games at Vero Beach.

Webber plea ends trial; lesser charge likely to keep forward out of jail

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Chris Webber might have avoided jail time by admitting he lied to a grand jury about money he repaid a former University of Michigan basketball booster.

A day before jury selection was to begin in his perjury trial, the former Michigan player and current Sacramento Kings star pleaded guilty Monday to a lesser charge of criminal contempt. He faces a fine, but the agreement with prosecutors should keep him out of jail.

"I'm relieved that it is in the process of being over," Webber said.

In 2000, Webber said he didn't recall giving money to booster Ed Martin, who died this year. Webber acknowledged Monday that he gave Martin about \$38,000 in 1994.

Webber originally was charged with

lying to a grand jury about money authorities say he received from Martin. Webber could have faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Webber, who had left knee surgery last month, used crutches to walk to a podium in court. He was injured in Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals against the Dallas Mavericks.

The player will face a fine in the agreement with prosecutors.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds will decide whether the criminal contempt charge to which he pleaded guilty is a felony or a misdemeanor. Sentencing was set for Sept. 16.

A perjury charge against the player's father, Mayce Webber Jr., was expected to be dropped Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino said. The father's attorney declined comment.

Martin, who died Feb. 14 at age 69, pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to launder money. He admitted he took gambling money, combined it with other funds and lent it to several players while they were in school.

The retired autoworker said he lent \$616,000 to Webber and three other Michigan players — Maurice Taylor, Robert Traylor and Louis Bullock — while they were amateurs. Martin said he gave Webber and his family \$280,000 from 1988-93, a period extending from his freshman year in high school through his sophomore season at Michigan. Webber left for the NBA after helping the Wolverines reach the NCAA title game in both of his college seasons.

Because of rules violations connected to the case, Michigan held its basketball team out of the 2003 postseason, and the NCAA banned the Wolverines from the 2004 postseason. The

school also decided to forfeit 112 regular-season and tournament victories from five seasons, plus its victory in the 1992 NCAA semifinals. The NCAA also cut scholarships and put the program on probation.

Webber, in the second year of a seven-year, \$123 million contract with the Kings, has denied taking anything of significant value from Martin. During his 2000 appearance before the grand jury investigating Martin, Webber said he took money from Martin in high school, but could not remember if he took money in college.

Martin's death left federal prosecutors without the only person who could provide crucial information. The absence of the booster's testimony resulted in charges against Webber's aunt, Charlene Johnson, being thrown out in May. An obstruction of justice charge against Webber also was dismissed in June.

BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C. — Washington Wizards guard Jerry Stackhouse, facing a misdemeanor assault charge after a woman accused him of grabbing her during a disagreement over his lease of a summer rental home, on Monday called the incident an "unfortunate misunderstanding" that he hoped would be resolved soon.

Atlantic Beach police charged Stackhouse on Sunday with assault on a female, which under state law is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of two years, after Patricia Nagy, 37, a real estate agent for the company that leased the six-room home to Stackhouse, said she suffered a minor injury as a result of being grabbed by the Wizards' player.

According to Atlantic Beach police chief Scott Kilpatrick, Nagy required no medical attention for her injury. Nagy declined to comment.

Stackhouse, who turned himself in to police and was released on \$2,000 bond, is scheduled to go before a Carteret County, N.C., magistrate on Aug. 7 to hear the charges against him, according to court records.

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns signed top draft pick Zarko Cabarkapa to a three-year contract for \$3.94 million.

The 6-foot-11 forward from Serbia was the 17th overall selection last month in the NBA draft.

Although the team did not reveal financial terms of the deal, Cabarkapa

was expected to receive the maximum allowed for a rookie.

He will receive \$1.22 million next season, \$1.31 million the following year and \$1.4 million 2005-06. The contract includes a fourth year at the club's option.

TUALATIN, Ore. — High schooler Travis Outlaw signed his first NBA contract with the Portland Trail Blazers.

As the 23rd pick of the draft's first round, the 18-year-old Outlaw was eligible for a three-year deal worth \$2.5 million.

Outlaw, a 6-foot-9, 210-pound forward, was the second high school player chosen, behind No. 1 overall choice LeBron James.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Colorado State basketball coach Dale Layer signed a five-year contract after leading the Rams to the NCAA tournament last season and the Mountain West Conference championship.

The deal raises Layer's base salary to \$185,000, with incentives for postseason play, interim athletic director Christine Susenihl said.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville reserve guard Bryant Northern was dismissed from the basketball team after his arrest on theft and forgery charges.

Sports in brief

The 6-foot, 175-pound senior, admitted to police that he stole two blank checks from a home he was visiting and tried to cash them for more than \$3,000, according to arrest records.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

VERNON, Conn. — An attorney for the Atlantic Coast Conference filed a motion Monday to dismiss the Big East's lawsuit against the conference expansion plans.

Four Big East football schools, including the University of Connecticut, are seeking millions of dollars in damages claiming the ACC conspired with Big East member Miami to join the ACC and weaken the Big East. The lawsuit was filed June 6 in a Connecticut court.

Steven Errante, the New Haven-based lawyer representing the ACC, asked Judge Samuel J. Sferazza to dismiss the lawsuit because Connecticut courts do not have jurisdiction over the ACC.

"I'm as close to positive as you can get that this case is going to be dismissed," Errante said.

Sferazza scheduled a hearing on the ACC's motion for Sept. 29.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Former Alabama football coach Mike Price filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the universi-

ty, claiming he was wrongfully fired after allegations arose about his conduct at a golf outing in Florida.

The lawsuit alleges Price was denied due process, his civil rights were violated, breach of contract, wrongful termination and fraud.

Price is seeking \$10 million in punitive damages and \$10 million in compensatory damages.

Price came to Alabama from Washington State after last season.

He had a seven-year, \$10 million contract to coach the Crimson Tide, but had not signed it when he was fired May 3.

HOCKEY

DALLAS — Longtime Boston Bruin Don Sweeney signed a one-year deal with the Dallas Stars.

Sweeney had played his entire 15-year NHL career with the Bruins, breaking in during the 1988-89 season. He played in 1,052 career games — third most in team history behind Ray Bourque and John Bucyk.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres signed unrestricted free agent defenseman Joel Bouchard to a one-year contract.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Kiril Koltsov, Vancouver's second round draft pick in 2002, signed with the Canucks.

From The Associated Press